

PEOPLE News

Mesa girl wins 'Every Day Heroes' writing contest

Have an item for "People in the News"? We invite readers to submit news of awards, honors, anniversaries, weddings, etc., of Mesa residents and their families. If you have a people in the news item to announce, e-mail to emesanews@newszap.com; mail to Mesa Independent, 850 S. Ironwood Drive, Suite No. 112, Apache Junction, AZ 85220; fax to 480-671-0016; or call 480-982-7799. Items selected will be published in the order in which they are received and publication in a specific edition of the paper is not guaranteed.



Billie Bogart (Grandma Boo Boo) and Zöe Simms

Zöe Simms, a fourth-grader at Highland Elementary School in Mesa, was selected as the winning author in the Phoenix Coyotes and Mesa Fire Department's "Every Day Heroes" essay contest.

Local students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades wrote about their heroes. Zöe wrote about her great-grandmother, **Billie Bogart**, who Zöe calls "Grandma Boo Boo."

Zöe wrote that she is proud of her great-grandmother's volunteer work within the community. Ms. Bogart volunteers at the Phoenix Zoo, United Methodist Outreach Ministries and Tempe's Meals on Wheels Program.

According to a press release, Zöe's essay was selected from 241 entries that were submitted.

Zöe received free tickets for her family and entire class to attend the Coyotes vs. the Nashville Predators game on March 14 where Zöe received a special pre-game bench recognition.

She and her class also received a classroom party with Howler.

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Navy Seaman Recruit **Michaela Apodaca**, daughter of Valarie R. Pineda of Apache Junction and Michael R. Apodaca of Flagstaff, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Ms. Apodaca is a 2008 graduate of Skyline High School of Mesa.

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Air Force Airman **Joshua M. Young** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

He is the son of **Onie Barin** and stepson of **John Garrigas** of Mesa.

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Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,536 students in January. Among the graduates was **Regina C. Cordova** of Mesa, who received a Master of Criminal Justice.

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Air Force Airman **Sean M. Green** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

He is the son of **Marcia Green**, and grandson of **Betty Green**, both of Mesa.

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Recent births at Chandler Regional Hospital, 475 S. Dobson Road, Chandler, include these Mesa couples:

- Feb. 12, a girl to **Commodore** and **Carol Mann**.
- Feb. 12, a girl to **Ramiro** and **Emily Soto**.
- Feb. 13, a boy to **Ian** and **Kimberly Aston**.
- Feb. 17, a boy to **Ryan** and **Megan Blinston**.
- Feb. 19, a girl to **Bret** and **Rebecca Crosby**.
- Feb. 21, a boy to **Jorge** and **Tabitha Delvalle**.
- Feb. 23, a boy to **Jonathan** and **Lindsay Pinkerton**.
- March 2, a girl to **David** and **Laura Richins**.
- March 3, a girl to **Erik** and **Amanda Rios**.
- March 3, a girl to **Jose** and **Tamara Villarino**.
- March 5, a boy to **Bill** and **Erika Slack**.
- March 5, a girl to **Daniel** and **Lindsay Shreeve**.
- March 6, a girl to **Miguel** and **Megan Aguilar**.
- March 9, a boy to **Gilbert** and **Beatrice Martinez**.
- March 10, a boy to **Jay** and **Rachel Sibel**.
- March 11, a girl to **Jerry** and **Tanikka King**.
- March 12, a boy to **Jeffrey** and **Celeste Panek**.
- March 12, a girl to **Donovan** and **Erika Brevik**.



Joshua M. Young



Sean M. Green

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